information, in the recent past, different regions of the country have been affected by various natural calamities. While the primary responsibility for taking necessary action is that of the State Government concerned, as number of related schemes/programmes are implemented by the Central Ministries/Departments and State Governments, to reduce the adverse impact due to these natural calamities.

**Drinking water and fodder in drought affected States**

2381. SHRI DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether availability of drinking water and fodder was reviewed by Government in the wake of severe drought conditions in Andhra Pradesh and other drought-affected States of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken to tackle the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Assessment of availability of water and fodder and the assistance required by drought affected States is part and parcel of over-all assessment to be carried out by the Central Teams, which are then considered finally by the High Level Committee (HLC) for assistance from the National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF). No separate assessements were carried out either for Andhra Pradesh or for other States. The over-all situation in this behalf is under control except in Rajasthan where Railways are transporting water and fodder, free of cost. The situation in many other States may, however, warrant similar steps in the next few months.

(c) Necessary action has to be taken by the State Governments concerned.

**Drought measures for Kerala**

2382. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Kerala Government sought financial grants to undertake relief measures in drought hit places in the State;

(b) if so, the decision taken therein and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Kerala Government declared the State as drought-affected and brought the matter into the notice of Government;

(d) whether the recent announcement of Prime Minister exempting the agricultural debt and interest covers the farmers in Kerala; and

(e) if so, to what extent and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Government of Kerala have declared the areas affected by drought and a Central Team is visiting the State for assessment of the drought situation.

(d) and (e) the special dispensation is for all the States affected by current drought. It will be pre-mature to give any indication at this stage as it will depend upon actual disbursement.

**NAIS for drought-affected farmers in Andhra Pradesh**

2383. SHRI N.R. DASARI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any amount of money was disbursed under Crop Insurance Scheme to farmers who suffered heavy losses due to damage to their crops, caused by the recent drought in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details of the districts, the number of farmers affected and the extent of losses incurred by them; and

(c) the crop insurance money paid to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) No, Sir Indemnity claims under National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) are worked out on the basis of the yield data based on requisite number of Crop Cutting Experiments received from the State Government. The last date for receipt of yield data from State Government of Andhra Pradesh for Kharif 2002 season is 31st January/ 31st March, 2003 for different crops.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.